

# Riesz transforms associated to Schrödinger operators with negative potentials

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## Abstract

The goal of this paper is to study the Riesz transforms  $\nabla A^{-1/2}$  where  $A$  is the Schrödinger operator  $-\Delta - V$ ,  $V \geq 0$ , under different conditions on the potential  $V$ . We prove that if  $V$  is strongly subcritical,  $\nabla A^{-1/2}$  is bounded on  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^N)$ ,  $N \geq 3$ , for all  $p \in (p'_0; 2]$  where  $p'_0$  is the dual exponent of  $p_0$  where  $2 < \frac{2N}{N-2} < p_0 < \infty$ ; and we give a counterexample to the boundedness on  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^N)$  for  $p \in (1; p'_0) \cup (p_{0*}; \infty)$  where  $p_{0*} := \frac{p_0 N}{N+p_0}$  is the reverse Sobolev exponent of  $p_0$ . If the potential is strongly subcritical in the Kato subclass  $K_N^\infty$ , then  $\nabla A^{-1/2}$  is bounded on  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^N)$  for all  $p \in (1; 2]$ , moreover if it is in  $L^{N/2}(\mathbb{R}^N)$  then  $\nabla A^{-1/2}$  is bounded on  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^N)$  for all  $p \in (1; N)$ . We prove also boundedness of  $V^{1/2}A^{-1/2}$  with the same conditions on the same spaces. Finally we study these operators on manifolds. We prove that our results hold on a class of Riemannian manifolds.

**keywords:** Riesz transforms, Schrödinger operators, off-diagonal estimates, singular operators, Riemannian manifolds.

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## 1 Introduction and definitions

Let  $A$  be a Schrödinger operator  $-\Delta + V$  where  $-\Delta$  is the nonnegative Laplace operator and the potential  $V : \mathbb{R}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that  $V = V^+ - V^-$  (where  $V^+$  and  $V^-$  are the positive and negative parts of  $V$ , respectively). The operator is defined via the sesquilinear form method. We define

$$\mathfrak{a}(u, v) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} \nabla u(x) \nabla v(x) dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} V^+(x) u(x) v(x) dx - \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} V^-(x) u(x) v(x) dx$$

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$$D(\mathfrak{a}) = \left\{ u \in W^{1,2}(\mathbb{R}^N), \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} V^+(x)u^2(x)dx < \infty \right\}.$$

Here we assume  $V^+ \in L^1_{loc}(\mathbb{R}^N)$  and  $V^-$  satisfies (for all  $u \in D(\mathfrak{a})$ ):

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} V^-(x)u^2(x)dx &\leq \\ \alpha \left[ \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\nabla u|^2(x)dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} V^+(x)u^2(x)dx \right] + \beta \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} u^2(x)dx \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

where  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$  and  $\beta \in \mathbb{R}$ . By the well-known KLMN theorem (see for example [21] Chapter VI), the form  $\mathfrak{a}$  is closed (and bounded from below). Its associated operator is  $A$ . If in addition  $\beta \leq 0$ , then  $A$  is nonnegative.

We can define the Riesz transforms associated to  $A$  by

$$\nabla A^{-1/2} := \frac{1}{\Gamma(\frac{1}{2})} \int_0^\infty \sqrt{t} \nabla e^{-tA} \frac{dt}{t}.$$

The boundedness of Riesz transforms on  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^N)$  implies that the domain of  $A^{1/2}$  is included in the Sobolev space  $W^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}^N)$ . Thus the solution of the corresponding evolution equation will be in the Sobolev space  $W^{1,p}(\mathbb{R}^N)$  for initial data in  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^N)$ .

It is our aim to study the boundedness on  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^N)$  of the Riesz transforms  $\nabla A^{-1/2}$ . We are also interested in the boundedness of the operator  $V^{1/2}A^{-1/2}$ . If  $\nabla A^{-1/2}$  and  $V^{1/2}A^{-1/2}$  are bounded on  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^N)$ , we obtain for some positive constant  $C$

$$\|\nabla u\|_p + \|V^{1/2}u\|_p \leq C \|(-\Delta + V)^{1/2}u\|_p.$$

By a duality argument, we obtain

$$\|(-\Delta + V)^{1/2}u\|_{p'} \leq C(\|\nabla u\|_{p'} + \|V^{1/2}u\|_{p'})$$

where  $p'$  is the dual exponent of  $p$ .

Riesz transforms associated to Schrödinger operators with nonnegative potentials were studied by Ouhabaz [24], Shen [27], and Auscher and Ben Ali [2]. Ouhabaz proved that Riesz transforms are bounded on  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^N)$  for all  $p \in (1, 2]$ , for all potential  $V$  locally integrable. Shen and Auscher and Ben Ali proved that if the potential  $V$  is in the reverse Hölder class  $B_q$ , then the Riesz transforms are bounded on  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^N)$  for all  $p \in (1, p_1)$  where  $2 < p_1 \leq \infty$  depends on  $q$ . The result of Auscher and Ben Ali generalize that of Shen because Shen has restrictions on the dimension  $N$  and on the class  $B_q$ . Recently, Badr and Ben Ali [5] extend the result of Auscher and Ben Ali

[2] to Riemannian manifolds of homogeneous type with polynomial volume growth where Poincaré inequalities hold and Riesz transforms associated to the Laplace–Beltrami operator are bounded. They also prove that a smaller range is possible if the volume growth is not polynomial.

With negative potentials new difficulties appear. If we take  $V \in L^\infty(\mathbb{R}^N)$ , and apply the method in [24] to the operator  $A + \|V\|_\infty$ , we obtain boundedness of  $\nabla(A + \|V\|_\infty)^{-1/2}$  on  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^N)$  for all  $p \in (1; 2]$ . This is weaker than the boundedness of  $\nabla A^{-1/2}$  on the same spaces. Guillarmou and Hassell [17] studied Riesz transforms  $\nabla(A \circ P_+)^{-1/2}$  where  $A$  is the Schrödinger operator with negative potential and  $P_+$  is the spectral projection on the positive spectrum. They prove that, on asymptotically conic manifolds  $M$  of dimension  $N \geq 3$ , if  $V$  is smooth and satisfies decay conditions, and the Schrödinger operator has no zero-modes nor zero-resonances, then Riesz transforms  $\nabla(A \circ P_+)^{-1/2}$  are bounded on  $L^p(M)$  for all  $p \in (1, N)$ . They also prove (see [18]) that when zero-modes are present, Riesz transforms  $\nabla(A \circ P_+)^{-1/2}$  are bounded on  $L^p(M)$  for all  $p \in (\frac{N}{N-2}, \frac{N}{3})$ , with bigger range possible if the zero modes have extra decay at infinity.

In this paper we consider only negative potentials. From now on, we denote by  $A$  the Schrödinger operator with negative potential,

$$A := -\Delta - V, \quad V \geq 0.$$

Our purpose is, first, to find optimal conditions on  $V$  allowing the boundedness of Riesz transforms  $\nabla A^{-1/2}$  and that of  $V^{1/2} A^{-1/2}$  on  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^N)$  second, to find the best possible range of  $p$ 's.

Let us take the following definition

**Definition 1.1.** *We say that the potential  $V$  is strongly subcritical if for some  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,  $A \geq \varepsilon V$ . This means that for all  $u \in W^{1,2}(\mathbb{R}^N)$*

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} V u^2 \leq \frac{1}{1+\varepsilon} \int_{\mathbb{R}^N} |\nabla u|^2.$$

For more information on strongly subcritical potentials see [15] and [33]. With this condition,  $V$  satisfies assumption (1) where  $\beta = 0$  and  $\alpha = \frac{1}{1+\varepsilon}$ . Thus  $A$  is well defined, nonnegative and  $-A$  generates an analytic contraction semigroup  $(e^{-tA})_{t \geq 0}$  on  $L^2(\mathbb{R}^N)$ .

Since  $-\Delta - V \geq \varepsilon V$  we have  $(1 + \varepsilon)(-\Delta - V) \geq \varepsilon(-\Delta)$ . Therefore

$$\|\nabla u\|_2^2 \leq (1 + \frac{1}{\varepsilon}) \|A^{1/2} u\|_2^2. \tag{2}$$

Thus,  $\nabla A^{-1/2}$  is bounded on  $L^2(\mathbb{R}^N)$ . Conversely, it is clear that if  $\nabla A^{-1/2}$  is bounded on  $L^2(\mathbb{R}^N)$  then  $V$  is strongly subcritical.

We observe also that  $-\Delta - V \geq \varepsilon V$  is equivalent to

$$\|V^{1/2}u\|_2^2 \leq \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \|A^{1/2}u\|_2^2. \quad (3)$$

Thus,  $V^{1/2}A^{-1/2}$  is bounded on  $L^2(\mathbb{R}^N)$  if and only if  $V$  is strongly subcritical.

So we can conclude that

$$\|\nabla u\|_2 + \|V^{1/2}u\|_2 \leq C \|(-\Delta - V)^{1/2}u\|_2$$

if and only if  $V$  is strongly subcritical. Then by duality argument we have

$$\|\nabla u\|_2 + \|V^{1/2}u\|_2 \approx \|(-\Delta - V)^{1/2}u\|_2$$

if and only if  $V$  is strongly subcritical.

To study Riesz transforms on  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^N)$  for  $1 \leq p \leq \infty$  with  $p \neq 2$  we use the results on the uniform boundedness of the semigroup on  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^N)$ . Taking central potentials which are equivalent to  $c/|x|^2$  as  $|x|$  tends to infinity where  $0 < c < (\frac{N-2}{2})^2$ ,  $N \geq 3$ , Davies and Simon [15] proved that for all  $t > 0$  and all  $p \in (p'_0; p_0)$ ,

$$\|e^{-tA}\|_{p-p} \leq C$$

where  $2 < \frac{2N}{N-2} < p_0 < \infty$  and  $p'_0$  its dual exponent. Next Liskevich, Sobol, and Vogt [23] proved the uniform boundedness on  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^N)$  for all  $p \in (p'_0; p_0)$  where  $2 < \frac{2N}{N-2} < p_0 = \frac{2N}{(N-2)(1-\sqrt{1-\frac{1}{1+\varepsilon}})}$ , for general strongly subcritical potentials . They also proved that the range  $(p'_0, p_0)$  is optimal and the semigroup does not even act on  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^N)$  for  $p \notin (p'_0, p_0)$ . Under additional condition on  $V$ , Takeda [31] used stochastic methods to prove a Gaussian estimate of the associated heat kernel. Thus the semigroup acts boundedly on  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^N)$  for all  $p \in [1, \infty]$ .

In this paper we prove that when  $V$  is strongly subcritical and  $N \geq 3$ , Riesz transforms are bounded on  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^N)$  for all  $p \in (p'_0; 2]$ . We also give a counterexample to the boundedness of Riesz transforms on  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^N)$  when  $p \in (1; p'_0) \cup (p_{0*}; \infty)$  where  $2 < p_{0*} := \frac{p_0 N}{N+p_0} < p_0 < \infty$ . If  $V$  is strongly subcritical in the Kato subclass  $K_N^\infty$ ,  $N \geq 3$  (see Section 4), then  $\nabla A^{-1/2}$  is bounded on  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^N)$  for all  $p \in (1, 2]$ . If, in addition,  $V \in L^{N/2}(\mathbb{R}^N)$  then it

is bounded on  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^N)$  for all  $p \in (1, N)$ . With the same conditions, we prove similar results for the operator  $V^{1/2}A^{-1/2}$ . Hence if  $V$  is strongly subcritical and  $V \in K_N^\infty \cap L^{N/2}(\mathbb{R}^N)$ ,  $N \geq 3$ , then

$$\|\nabla u\|_p + \|V^{1/2}u\|_p \approx \|(-\Delta - V)^{1/2}u\|_p \quad (4)$$

for all  $p \in (N'; N)$ .

In the last section, we extend our results to Riemannian manifolds. We denote by  $-\Delta$  the Laplace-Beltrami operator on a complete non-compact Riemannian manifold  $M$  of dimension  $N \geq 3$ . We prove that when  $V$  is strongly subcritical on  $M$ ,  $\nabla(-\Delta - V)^{-1/2}$  and  $V^{1/2}(-\Delta - V)^{-1/2}$  are bounded on  $L^p(M)$  for all  $p \in (p'_0; 2]$  if  $M$  is of homogeneous type and the Sobolev inequality holds on  $M$ . If in addition Poincaré inequalities hold on  $M$  and  $V$  belongs to the Kato class  $K_\infty$  then  $\nabla(-\Delta - V)^{-1/2}$  and  $V^{1/2}(-\Delta - V)^{-1/2}$  are bounded on  $L^p(M)$  for all  $p \in (1; 2]$ . When  $V$  is in addition in  $L^{N/2}(M)$  and the Riesz transforms associated to the Laplace-Beltrami operator are bounded on  $L^r(M)$  for some  $r \in (2; N]$ , then  $\nabla(-\Delta - V)^{-1/2}$  and  $V^{1/2}(-\Delta - V)^{-1/2}$  are bounded on  $L^p(M)$  for all  $p \in (1; r)$ .

For the proof of the boundedness of Riesz transforms we use off-diagonal estimates (for properties and more details see [4]). These estimates are a generalization of the Gaussian estimates used by Coulhon and Duong in [13] to study the Riesz transforms associated to the Laplace-Beltrami operator on Riemannian manifolds, and by Duong, Ouhabaz and Yan in [16] to study the magnetic Schrödinger operator on  $\mathbb{R}^N$ . We also use the approach of Blunck and Kunstmann in [8] and [9] to weak type  $(p, p)$ -estimates. In [1], Auscher used these tools to divergence-form operators with complex coefficients. For  $p \in (2; N)$  we use a complex interpolation method (following an idea in Auscher and Ben Ali [2]).

In contrast to [17] and [18], we do not assume decay nor smoothness conditions on  $V$ .

In the following sections, we denote by  $L^p$  the Lebesgue space  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^N)$  with the Lebesgue measure  $dx$ ,  $\|\cdot\|_p$  its usual norm,  $(\cdot, \cdot)$  the inner product of  $L^2$ ,  $\|\cdot\|_{p-q}$  the norm of operators acting from  $L^p$  to  $L^q$ . We denote by  $p'$  the dual exponent to  $p$ ,  $p' := \frac{p}{p-1}$ . We denote by  $C, c$  the positive constants even if their values change at each occurrence. Through this paper,  $\nabla A^{-1/2}$  denotes one of the partial derivative  $\frac{\partial}{\partial x_k} A^{-1/2}$  for any fixed  $k \in \{1, \dots, N\}$ .

## 2 Off-diagonal estimates

In this section, we show that  $(e^{-tA})_{t>0}$ ,  $(\sqrt{t}\nabla e^{-tA})_{t>0}$  and  $(\sqrt{t}V^{1/2}e^{-tA})_{t>0}$  satisfy  $L^p - L^2$  off-diagonal estimates provided that  $V$  is strongly subcritical.

**Definition 2.1.** Let  $(T_t)_{t>0}$  be a family of uniformly bounded operators on  $L^2$ . We say that  $(T_t)_{t>0}$  satisfies  $L^p - L^q$  off-diagonal estimates for  $p, q \in [1; \infty]$  with  $p \leq q$  if there exist positive constants  $C$  and  $c$  such that for all closed sets  $E$  and  $F$  of  $\mathbb{R}^N$  and all  $h \in L^p(\mathbb{R}^N) \cap L^2(\mathbb{R}^N)$  with support in  $E$ , we have for all  $t > 0$ :

$$\|T_t h\|_{L^q(F)} \leq C t^{-\gamma_{pq}} e^{-\frac{cd(E,F)^2}{t}} \|h\|_p,$$

where  $d$  is the Euclidean distance and  $\gamma_{pq} := \frac{N}{2} \left( \frac{1}{p} - \frac{1}{q} \right)$ .

**Proposition 2.1.** Let  $A = -\Delta - V$  where  $V \geq 0$  and  $V$  is strongly subcritical. Then  $(e^{-tA})_{t>0}$ ,  $(\sqrt{t}\nabla e^{-tA})_{t>0}$ , and  $(\sqrt{t}V^{1/2}e^{-tA})_{t>0}$  satisfy  $L^2 - L^2$  off-diagonal estimates, and we have for all  $t > 0$  and all  $f \in L^2$  supported in  $E$ :

- (i)  $\|e^{-tA} f\|_{L^2(F)} \leq e^{-d^2(E,F)/4t} \|f\|_2,$
- (ii)  $\|\sqrt{t}\nabla e^{-tA} f\|_{L^2(F)} \leq C e^{-d^2(E,F)/16t} \|f\|_2,$
- (iii)  $\|\sqrt{t}V^{1/2}e^{-tA} f\|_{L^2(F)} \leq C e^{-d^2(E,F)/8t} \|f\|_2.$

*Proof:* The ideas are classical and rely on the well known Davies perturbation technique. Let  $A_\rho := e^{\rho\phi} A e^{-\rho\phi}$  where  $\rho > 0$  and  $\phi$  is a Lipschitz function with  $|\nabla\phi| \leq 1$  a.e.. Here  $A_\rho$  is the associated operator to the sesquilinear form  $\mathfrak{a}_\rho$  defined by

$$\mathfrak{a}_\rho(u, v) := \mathfrak{a}(e^{-\rho\phi} u, e^{\rho\phi} v)$$

for all  $u, v \in D(\mathfrak{a})$ .

By the strong subcriticality property of  $V$  we have for all  $u \in W^{1,2}$

$$\begin{aligned} ((A_\rho + \rho^2)u, u) &= - \int \rho^2 |\nabla\phi|^2 u^2 + \int |\nabla u|^2 - \int Vu^2 + \rho^2 \|u\|_2^2 \\ &\geq \varepsilon \|V^{1/2}u\|_2^2. \end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

Using (2), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} ((A_\rho + \rho^2)u, u) &= - \int \rho^2 |\nabla\phi|^2 u^2 + \int |\nabla u|^2 - \int Vu^2 + \rho^2 \|u\|_2^2 \\ &\geq \frac{\varepsilon}{\varepsilon + 1} \|\nabla u\|_2^2. \end{aligned} \tag{6}$$

In particular  $(A_\rho + \rho^2)$  is a maximal accretive operator on  $L^2$ , and this implies

$$\|e^{-tA_\rho} u\|_2 \leq e^{t\rho^2} \|u\|_2. \quad (7)$$

Now we want to estimate

$$\|(A_\rho + 2\rho^2)e^{-t(A_\rho + 2\rho^2)}\|_{2-2}.$$

First, let us prove that  $A_\rho + 2\rho^2$  is a sectorial operator.

For  $u$  complex-valued,

$$\mathfrak{a}_\rho(u, u) := \mathfrak{a}(u, u) + \rho \int u \nabla \phi \bar{\nabla u} - \rho \int \bar{u} \nabla \phi \nabla u - \rho^2 \int |\nabla \phi|^2 |u|^2.$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{a}_\rho(u, u) + 2\rho^2 \|u\|_2^2 &\geq \mathfrak{a}(u, u) + \rho \int u \nabla \phi \bar{\nabla u} - \rho \int \bar{u} \nabla \phi \nabla u + \rho^2 \|u\|_2^2 \\ &= \mathfrak{a}(u, u) + 2i\rho \mathfrak{Im} \int u \nabla \phi \bar{\nabla u} + \rho^2 \|u\|_2^2. \end{aligned}$$

This implies that

$$\Re(\mathfrak{a}_\rho(u, u) + 2\rho^2 \|u\|_2^2) \geq \mathfrak{a}(u, u), \quad (8)$$

and

$$\Re(\mathfrak{a}_\rho(u, u) + 2\rho^2 \|u\|_2^2) \geq \rho^2 \|u\|_2^2. \quad (9)$$

On the other hand,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{a}_\rho(u, u) &= \mathfrak{a}(u, u) + \rho \int u \nabla \phi \bar{\nabla u} - \rho \int \bar{u} \nabla \phi \nabla u - \rho^2 \int |\nabla \phi|^2 |u|^2 \\ &= \mathfrak{a}(u, u) + 2i\rho \mathfrak{Im} \int u \nabla \phi \bar{\nabla u} - \rho^2 \int |\nabla \phi|^2 |u|^2. \end{aligned}$$

So

$$\begin{aligned} |\mathfrak{Im}(\mathfrak{a}_\rho(u, u) + 2\rho^2 \|u\|_2^2)| &= 2|\rho| \int |u| |\nabla \phi| |\bar{\nabla u}| \\ &\leq 2|\rho| \|u\|_2 \|\nabla u\|_2. \end{aligned}$$

Using (2) we obtain that

$$\begin{aligned} |\mathfrak{Im}(\mathfrak{a}_\rho(u, u) + 2\rho^2 \|u\|_2^2)| &\leq 2|\rho| \|u\|_2 c_\varepsilon \mathfrak{a}^{\frac{1}{2}}(u, u) \\ &\leq c_\varepsilon^2 \mathfrak{a}(u, u) + \rho^2 \|u\|_2^2, \end{aligned}$$

where  $c_\varepsilon = (1 + \frac{1}{\varepsilon})^{\frac{1}{2}}$ . Now using estimates (8) and (9), we deduce that there exists a constant  $C > 0$  depending only on  $\varepsilon$  such that

$$|\Im(\mathfrak{a}_\rho(u, u) + 2\rho^2 \|u\|_2^2)| \leq C \Re(\mathfrak{a}_\rho(u, u) + 2\rho^2 \|u\|_2^2).$$

We conclude that (see [21] or [24])

$$\|e^{-z(A_\rho + 2\rho^2)}\|_{2-2} \leq 1$$

for all  $z$  in the open sector of angle  $\arctan(1/C)$ . Hence by the Cauchy formula

$$\|(A_\rho + 2\rho^2)e^{-t(A_\rho + 2\rho^2)}\|_{2-2} \leq \frac{C}{t}. \quad (10)$$

The constant  $C$  is independent of  $\rho$ .

By estimate (5) and (6) we have

$$((A_\rho + 2\rho^2)u, u) \geq ((A_\rho + \rho^2)u, u) \geq \varepsilon \|V^{1/2}u\|_2^2,$$

and

$$((A_\rho + 2\rho^2)u, u) \geq ((A_\rho + \rho^2)u, u) \geq \frac{\varepsilon}{\varepsilon + 1} \|\nabla u\|_2^2.$$

Setting  $u = e^{-t(A_\rho + 2\rho^2)}f$  and using (10) and (7)

we obtain

$$\|\sqrt{t}\nabla e^{-tA_\rho} f\|_2 \leq C e^{2t\rho^2} \|f\|_2. \quad (11)$$

and

$$\|\sqrt{t}V^{1/2}e^{-tA_\rho} f\|_2 \leq C e^{2t\rho^2} \|f\|_2. \quad (12)$$

Let  $E$  and  $F$  be two closed subsets of  $\mathbb{R}^N$ ,  $f \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^N)$  supported in  $E$ , and let  $\phi(x) := d(x, E)$  where  $d$  is the Euclidean distance. Since  $e^{\rho\phi}f = f$ , we have the following relation

$$e^{-tA}f = e^{-\rho\phi}e^{-tA_\rho}f.$$

Then

$$\nabla e^{-tA}f = -\rho\nabla\phi e^{-\rho\phi}e^{-tA_\rho}f + e^{-\rho\phi}\nabla e^{-tA_\rho}f,$$

and

$$V^{1/2}e^{-tA}f = e^{-\rho\phi}V^{1/2}e^{-tA_\rho}f.$$

Now taking the norm on  $L^2(F)$ , we obtain from (7), (11) and (12)

$$\|e^{-tA}f\|_{L^2(F)} \leq e^{-\rho d(E,F)} e^{\rho^2 t} \|f\|_2, \quad (13)$$

$$\|\nabla e^{-tA}f\|_{L^2(F)} \leq \rho e^{-\rho d(E,F)} e^{\rho^2 t} \|f\|_2 + \frac{C}{\sqrt{t}} e^{-\rho d(E,F)} e^{2t\rho^2} \|f\|_2, \quad (14)$$

and

$$\|V^{1/2}e^{-tA}f\|_{L^2(F)} \leq \frac{C}{\sqrt{t}} e^{-\rho d(E,F)} e^{2\rho^2 t} \|f\|_2. \quad (15)$$

We set  $\rho = d(E,F)/2t$  in (13) and  $\rho = d(E,F)/4t$  in (15), then we get the  $L^2 - L^2$  off-diagonal estimates (i) and (iii).

We set  $\rho = d(E,F)/4t$  in (14), we get

$$\|\nabla e^{-tA}f\|_{L^2(F)} \leq \frac{C}{\sqrt{t}} \left(1 + \frac{d(E,F)}{4\sqrt{t}}\right) e^{-d^2(E,F)/8t} \|f\|_2.$$

This gives estimate (ii).  $\square$   $\square$

Now, we study the  $L^p - L^2$  boundedness of the semigroup, of its gradient, and of  $(V^{1/2}e^{-tA})_{t>0}$ .

**Proposition 2.2.** *Suppose that  $A \geq \varepsilon V$ , then  $(e^{-tA})_{t>0}$ ,  $(\sqrt{t}\nabla e^{-tA})_{t>0}$  and  $(\sqrt{t}V^{1/2}e^{-tA})_{t>0}$  are  $L^p - L^2$  bounded for all  $p \in (p'_0; 2]$ . Here  $p'_0$  is the dual exponent of  $p_0$  where  $p_0 = \frac{2N}{(N-2)(1-\sqrt{1-\frac{1}{1+\varepsilon}})}$ , and the dimension  $N \geq 3$ . More precisely we have for all  $t > 0$ :*

- i)  $\|e^{-tA}f\|_2 \leq Ct^{-\gamma_p} \|f\|_p,$
- ii)  $\|\sqrt{t}\nabla e^{-tA}f\|_2 \leq Ct^{-\gamma_p} \|f\|_p,$
- iii)  $\|\sqrt{t}V^{1/2}e^{-tA}f\|_2 \leq Ct^{-\gamma_p} \|f\|_p,$

where  $\gamma_p = \frac{N}{2} \left(\frac{1}{p} - \frac{1}{2}\right)$ .

*Proof.* i) We apply the Gagliardo-Nirenberg inequality

$$\|u\|_2^2 \leq C_{a,b} \|\nabla u\|_2^{2a} \|u\|_p^{2b},$$

where  $a + b = 1$  and  $(1 + 2\gamma_p)a = 2\gamma_p$ , to  $u = e^{-tA}f$  for all  $f \in L^2 \cap L^p$ , all  $t > 0$ , and all  $p \in (p'_0; 2]$ . We obtain

$$\|e^{-tA}f\|_2^2 \leq C_{a,b} \|\nabla e^{-tA}f\|_2^{2a} \|e^{-tA}f\|_p^{2b}.$$

At present we use the boundedness of the semigroup on  $L^p$  for all  $p \in (p'_0; 2]$  proved in [23], and the fact that  $\|\nabla u\|_2^2 \leq (1 + 1/\varepsilon)(Au, u)$  from the strong subcriticality condition, then we obtain that

$$\|e^{-tA}f\|_2^{2/a} \leq -C\psi'(t)\|f\|_p^{2b/a}$$

where  $\psi(t) = \|e^{-tA}f\|_2^2$ . This implies

$$\|f\|_p^{-2b/a} \leq C(\psi(t)^{\frac{a-1}{a}})'.$$

Since  $\frac{2b}{a} = \frac{1}{\gamma_p}$  and  $\frac{a-1}{a} = -\frac{1}{2\gamma_p}$ , integration between 0 and  $t$  yields

$$t\|f\|_p^{-1/\gamma_p} \leq C\|e^{-tA}f\|_2^{-1/\gamma_p},$$

which gives *i*).

We obtain *ii*) by using the following decomposition:

$$\sqrt{t}\nabla e^{-tA} = \sqrt{t}\nabla A^{-1/2}A^{1/2}e^{-tA/2}e^{-tA/2},$$

the boundedness of  $\nabla A^{-1/2}$  and of  $(\sqrt{t}A^{1/2}e^{-tA})_{t>0}$  on  $L^2$ , and the fact that  $(e^{-tA})_{t>0}$  is  $L^p - L^2$  bounded for all  $p \in (p'_0; 2]$  proved in *i*).

We prove *iii*) by using the following decomposition:

$$\sqrt{t}V^{1/2}e^{-tA} = \sqrt{t}V^{1/2}A^{-1/2}A^{1/2}e^{-tA/2}e^{-tA/2},$$

the boundedness of  $V^{1/2}A^{-1/2}$  and of  $(\sqrt{t}A^{1/2}e^{-tA})_{t>0}$  on  $L^2$ , and the fact that  $(e^{-tA})_{t>0}$  is  $L^p - L^2$  bounded for all  $p \in (p'_0; 2]$  proved in *i*).  $\square$   $\square$

We invest the previous results to obtain :

**Theorem 2.1.** *Assume that  $A \geq \varepsilon V$  then  $(e^{-tA})_{t>0}$ ,  $(\sqrt{t}\nabla e^{-tA})_{t>0}$  and  $(\sqrt{t}V^{1/2}e^{-tA})_{t>0}$  satisfy  $L^p - L^2$  off-diagonal estimates for all  $p \in (p'_0; 2]$ . Here  $p'_0$  is the dual exponent of  $p_0$  where  $p_0 = \frac{2N}{(N-2)(1-\sqrt{1-\frac{1}{1+\varepsilon}})}$ , and the dimension  $N \geq 3$ . Then we have for all  $t > 0$ , all  $p \in (p'_0; 2]$ , all closed sets  $E$  and  $F$  of  $\mathbb{R}^N$  and all  $f \in L^2 \cap L^p$  with  $\text{supp } f \subseteq E$*

*i)*

$$\|e^{-tA}f\|_{L^2(F)} \leq Ct^{-\gamma_p}e^{-\frac{cd^2(E,F)}{t}}\|f\|_p, \quad (16)$$

*ii)*

$$\|\sqrt{t}\nabla e^{-tA}f\|_{L^2(F)} \leq Ct^{-\gamma_p}e^{-\frac{cd^2(E,F)}{t}}\|f\|_p, \quad (17)$$

iii)

$$\|\sqrt{t}V^{1/2}e^{-tA}f\|_{L^2(F)} \leq Ct^{-\gamma_p}e^{-\frac{cd^2(E,F)}{t}}\|f\|_p, \quad (18)$$

where  $\gamma_p = \frac{N}{2}\left(\frac{1}{p} - \frac{1}{2}\right)$  and  $C, c$  are positive constants.

**Remark:** By duality, we deduce from (16) a  $L^2 - L^p$  off-diagonal estimate of the norm of the semigroup for all  $p \in [2; p_0]$ , but we cannot deduce from (17) and (18) the same estimate of the norm of  $\sqrt{t}\nabla e^{-tA}f$  and of  $\sqrt{t}V^{1/2}e^{-tA}f$  because they are not selfadjoint. This affects the boundedness of Riesz transforms and of  $V^{1/2}A^{-1/2}$  on  $L^p$  for  $p > 2$ .

*Proof.* i) In the previous proposition we have proved that

$$\|e^{-tA}f\|_2 \leq Ct^{-\gamma_p}\|f\|_p$$

for all  $p \in (p'_0; 2]$ . This implies that for all  $t > 0$

$$\|\chi_F e^{-tA} \chi_E f\|_2 \leq Ct^{-\gamma_p}\|f\|_p$$

where  $\chi_M$  is the characteristic function of  $M$ . The  $L^2 - L^2$  off-diagonal estimate proved in the Proposition 2.1 implies that

$$\|\chi_F e^{-tA} \chi_E f\|_2 \leq e^{-d^2(E,F)/4t}\|f\|_2.$$

Hence we can apply the Riesz-Thorin interpolation theorem and we obtain the off-diagonal estimate (16).

Assertions ii) and iii) are proved in a similar way. We use  $L^2 - L^2$  off-diagonal estimates of Proposition 2.1 and assertions ii) and iii) of Proposition 2.2.  $\square$   $\square$

### 3 Boundedness of $\nabla A^{-1/2}$ and $V^{1/2}A^{-1/2}$ on $L^p$ for $p \in (p'_0; 2]$

This section is devoted to the study of the boundedness of  $V^{1/2}A^{-1/2}$  and Riesz transforms associated to Schrödinger operators with negative and strongly subcritical potentials. We prove that  $\nabla A^{-1/2}$  and  $V^{1/2}A^{-1/2}$  are bounded on  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^N)$ ,  $N \geq 3$ , for all  $p \in (p'_0; 2]$ , where  $p'_0$  is the exponent mentioned in Theorem 2.1.

**Theorem 3.1.** Assume that  $A \geq \varepsilon V$ , then  $\nabla A^{-1/2}$  is bounded on  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^N)$  for  $N \geq 3$ , for all  $p \in (p'_0; 2]$  where  $p'_0 = \left( \frac{2N}{(N-2)(1-\sqrt{1-\frac{1}{1+\varepsilon}})} \right)'$ .

To prove Theorem 3.1, we prove that  $\nabla A^{-1/2}$  is of weak type  $(p, p)$  for all  $p \in (p'_0; 2)$  by using the following theorem of Blunck and Kunstmann [8]. Then by the boundedness of  $\nabla A^{-1/2}$  on  $L^2$ , and the Marcinkiewicz interpolation theorem, we obtain boundedness on  $L^p$  for all  $p \in (p'_0; 2]$ . This result can also be deduced from Theorem 2.1 together with Theorem 1.1 of [9].

**Theorem 3.2.** Let  $p \in [1; 2)$ . Suppose that  $T$  is sublinear operator of strong type  $(2, 2)$ , and let  $(A_r)_{r>0}$  be a family of linear operators acting on  $L^2$ .

Assume that for  $j \geq 2$

$$\left( \frac{1}{|2^{j+1}B|} \int_{C_j(B)} |T(I - A_{r(B)})f|^2 \right)^{1/2} \leq g(j) \left( \frac{1}{|B|} \int_B |f|^p \right)^{1/p}, \quad (19)$$

and for  $j \geq 1$

$$\left( \frac{1}{|2^{j+1}B|} \int_{C_j(B)} |A_{r(B)}f|^2 \right)^{1/2} \leq g(j) \left( \frac{1}{|B|} \int_B |f|^p \right)^{1/p}, \quad (20)$$

for all ball  $B$  with radius  $r(B)$  and all  $f$  supported in  $B$ . If  $\Sigma := \sum g(j)2^{Nj} < \infty$ , then  $T$  is of weak type  $(p, p)$ , with a bound depending only on the strong type  $(2, 2)$  bound of  $T$ ,  $p$ , and  $\Sigma$ .

Here  $C_1 = 4B$  and  $C_j(B) = 2^{j+1}B \setminus 2^jB$  for  $j \geq 2$ , where  $\lambda B$  is the ball of radius  $\lambda r(B)$  with the same center as  $B$ , and  $|\lambda B|$  its Lebesgue measure.

of Theorem 3.1. Let  $T = \nabla A^{-1/2}$ . We prove assumptions (19) and (20) with  $A_r = I - (I - e^{-r^2A})^m$  for some  $m > N/4 - \gamma_p$ , using arguments similar to Auscher [1] Theorem 4.2.

Let us prove (20). For  $f$  supported in a ball  $B$  (with radius  $r$ ),

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{|2^{j+1}B|^{1/2}} \|A_r f\|_{L^2(C_j(B))} &= \frac{1}{|2^{j+1}B|^{1/2}} \left\| \sum_{k=1}^m \binom{m}{k} (-1)^{k+1} e^{-kr^2A} f \right\|_{L^2(C_j(B))} \\ &\leq \frac{1}{|2^{j+1}B|^{1/2}} \sum_{k=1}^m \binom{m}{k} C(kr^2)^{-\gamma_p} e^{\frac{-cd^2(B, C_j(B))}{kr^2}} \|f\|_p. \end{aligned}$$

for all  $p \in (p'_0; 2)$  and all  $f \in L^2 \cap L^p$  supported in  $B$ . Here we use the  $L^p - L^2$  off-diagonal estimates (16) for  $p \in (p'_0; 2]$ . Since  $\gamma_p = \frac{N}{2}(\frac{1}{p} - \frac{1}{2})$  we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \left( \frac{1}{|2^{j+1}B|} \int_{C_j(B)} |A_r f|^2 \right)^{1/2} &\leq \frac{Cr^{-2\gamma_p}}{|2^{j+1}B|^{1/2}} e^{\frac{-cd^2(B, C_j(B))}{mr^2}} \|f\|_p \\ &\leq C2^{-jN/2} e^{\frac{-cd^2(B, C_j(B))}{r^2}} \left( \frac{1}{|B|} \int_B |f|^p \right)^{1/p}. \end{aligned}$$

This yields, for  $j = 1$ ,

$$\left( \frac{1}{|4B|} \int_{4B} |A_r f|^2 \right)^{1/2} \leq C2^{-N/2} \left( \frac{1}{|B|} \int_B |f|^p \right)^{1/p},$$

and for  $j \geq 2$

$$\left( \frac{1}{|2^{j+1}B|} \int_{C_j(B)} |A_r f|^2 \right)^{1/2} \leq C2^{-jN/2} e^{-c4^j} \left( \frac{1}{|B|} \int_B |f|^p \right)^{1/p}.$$

Thus assumption (20) of Theorem 3.2 holds with  $\sum_{j \geq 1} g(j)2^{jN} < \infty$ . It remains to check the assumption (19):

We know that

$$\nabla A^{-1/2} f = C \int_0^\infty \nabla e^{-tA} f \frac{dt}{\sqrt{t}}$$

then, using the Newton binomial, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla A^{-1/2} (I - e^{-r^2 A})^m f &= C \int_0^\infty \nabla e^{-tA} (I - e^{-r^2 A})^m f \frac{dt}{\sqrt{t}} \\ &= C \int_0^\infty g_{r^2}(t) \nabla e^{-tA} f dt \end{aligned}$$

where

$$g_{r^2}(t) = \sum_{k=0}^m \binom{m}{k} (-1)^k \frac{\chi_{(t-kr^2>0)}}{\sqrt{t-kr^2}}.$$

Hence, using the  $L^p - L^2$  off-diagonal estimate (17), we obtain for all  $p \in (p'_0; 2)$ , all  $j \geq 2$ , and all  $f \in L^2 \cap L^p$  supported in  $B$

$$\|\nabla A^{-1/2} (I - e^{-r^2 A})^m f\|_{L^2(C_j(B))} \leq C \int_0^\infty |g_{r^2}(t)| t^{-\gamma_p - 1/2} e^{-c4^j r^2/t} dt \|f\|_p.$$

We observe that (see [1] p. 27)

$$|g_{r^2}(t)| \leq \frac{C}{\sqrt{t-kr^2}} \quad \text{if } kr^2 < t \leq (k+1)r^2 \leq (m+1)r^2$$

and

$$|g_{r^2}(t)| \leq Cr^{2m}t^{-m-1/2} \quad \text{if } t > (m+1)r^2.$$

This yields

$$\begin{aligned} \|\nabla A^{-\frac{1}{2}}(I - e^{-r^2A})^m f\|_{L^2(C_j(B))} &\leq C \sum_{k=0}^m \int_{kr^2}^{(k+1)r^2} \frac{t^{-\gamma_p-1/2}}{\sqrt{t-kr^2}} e^{-\frac{c4^j r^2}{t}} dt \|f\|_p \\ &\quad + C \int_{(m+1)r^2}^{\infty} r^{2m} t^{-\gamma_p-1-m} e^{-\frac{c4^j r^2}{t}} dt \|f\|_p \\ &\leq I_1 + I_2. \end{aligned} \quad (21)$$

We have

$$I_2 := C \int_{(m+1)r^2}^{\infty} r^{2m} t^{-\gamma_p-1-m} e^{-\frac{c4^j r^2}{t}} dt \|f\|_p \leq Cr^{-2\gamma_p} 2^{-2j(m+\gamma_p)} \|f\|_p,$$

by the Laplace transform formula, and

$$\begin{aligned} I_1 &:= C\|f\|_p \sum_{k=0}^m \int_{kr^2}^{(k+1)r^2} \frac{t^{-\gamma_p-1/2}}{\sqrt{t-kr^2}} e^{-\frac{c4^j r^2}{t}} dt \\ &= C\|f\|_p \left( \sum_{k=1}^m \int_{kr^2}^{(k+1)r^2} \frac{t^{-\gamma_p-1/2}}{\sqrt{t-kr^2}} e^{-\frac{c4^j r^2}{t}} dt + \int_0^{r^2} t^{-\gamma_p-1} e^{-\frac{c4^j r^2}{t}} dt \right) \\ &= J_1 + J_2. \end{aligned}$$

In the preceding equation

$$\begin{aligned} J_1 &:= C\|f\|_p \sum_{k=1}^m \int_{kr^2}^{(k+1)r^2} \frac{t^{-\gamma_p-1/2}}{\sqrt{t-kr^2}} e^{-\frac{c4^j r^2}{t}} dt \\ &\leq C\|f\|_p e^{-\frac{c4^j}{m+1}} \sum_{k=1}^m (kr^2)^{-\gamma_p-1/2} \int_{kr^2}^{(k+1)r^2} (t-kr^2)^{-1/2} dt \\ &\leq Cr^{-2\gamma_p} 2^{-2j(m+\gamma_p)} \|f\|_p, \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} J_2 &:= C \int_0^{r^2} t^{-\gamma_p-1} e^{-\frac{c4^j r^2}{t}} dt \|f\|_p \\ &\leq C\|f\|_p e^{-\frac{c4^j}{2(m+1)}} \int_0^{r^2} t^{-\gamma_p-1} e^{-\frac{c4^j r^2}{2t}} dt \\ &\leq C\|f\|_p 2^{-2jm} \int_0^{r^2} t^{-1-\gamma_p} C(2^{-2j} r^{-2} t)^{\gamma_p} e^{-\frac{c4^j r^2}{4t}} dt \\ &\leq C\|f\|_p 2^{-2j(m+\gamma_p)} r^{-2\gamma_p} \int_0^{r^2} t^{-1} e^{-\frac{c4^j r^2}{4t}} dt \\ &\leq Cr^{-2\gamma_p} 2^{-2j(m+\gamma_p)} \|f\|_p. \end{aligned}$$

Here, for the last inequality, we use the fact that  $j \geq 2$  to obtain the convergence of the integral without dependence on  $r$  nor on  $j$ .

We can therefore employ these estimates in (21) to conclude that

$$\|\nabla A^{-1/2}(I - e^{-r^2A})^m f\|_{L^2(C_j(B))} \leq Cr^{-2\gamma_p} 2^{-2j(m+\gamma_p)} \|f\|_p,$$

which implies

$$\left(\frac{1}{|2^{j+1}B|} \int_{C_j(B)} |\nabla A^{-\frac{1}{2}}(I - e^{-r^2A})^m f|^2\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \leq C 2^{-2j(m+\gamma_p + \frac{N}{4})} \left(\frac{1}{|B|} \int_B |f|^p\right)^{\frac{1}{p}}$$

where  $\sum g(j)2^{jN} < \infty$  because we set  $m > N/4 - \gamma_p$ .  $\square$   $\square$

**Proposition 3.1.** *Assume that  $A \geq \varepsilon V$ , then  $V^{1/2}A^{-1/2}$  is bounded on  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^N)$  for  $N \geq 3$ , for all  $p \in (p'_0; 2]$  where  $p'_0$  is the dual exponent of  $p_0$  with  $p_0 = \frac{2N}{(N-2)\left(1-\sqrt{1-\frac{1}{1+\varepsilon}}\right)}$ .*

*Proof.* We have seen in (3) that the operator  $V^{1/2}A^{-1/2}$  is bounded on  $L^2$ . To prove its boundedness on  $L^p$  for all  $p \in (p'_0; 2]$  we prove that it is of weak type  $(p, p)$  for all  $p \in (p'_0; 2)$  by checking assumptions (19) and (20) of Theorem 3.2, where  $T = V^{1/2}A^{-1/2}$ . Then, using the Marcinkiewicz interpolation theorem, we deduce boundedness on  $L^p$  for all  $p \in (p'_0; 2]$ .

We check assumptions of Theorem 3.2 similarly as we did in the proof of Theorem 3.1, using the  $L^p - L^2$  off-diagonal estimate (18) instead of (17).  $\square$   $\square$

Let us now move on, setting  $V = c|x|^{-2}$  where  $0 < c < (\frac{N-2}{2})^2$ , which is strongly subcritical thanks to the Hardy inequality, we prove that the associated Riesz transforms are not bounded on  $L^p$  for  $p \in (1; p'_0)$  neither for  $p \in (p_{0*}; \infty)$ . Here  $p_{0*} = \frac{p_0 N}{N+p_0}$  is the reverse Sobolev exponent of  $p_0$ .

**Proposition 3.2.** *Set  $V$  strongly subcritical and  $N \geq 3$ . Assume that  $\nabla A^{-1/2}$  is bounded on  $L^p$  for some  $p \in (1; p'_0)$ . Then there exists an exponent  $q_1 \in [p; p'_0)$  such that  $(e^{-tA})_{t>0}$  is bounded on  $L^r$  for all  $r \in (q_1; 2)$ .*

Consider now  $V = c|x|^{-2}$  where  $0 < c < (\frac{N-2}{2})^2$ . It is proved in [23] that the semigroup does not act on  $L^p$  for  $p \notin (p'_0; p_0)$ . Therefore we obtain from this proposition that the Riesz transform  $\nabla A^{-1/2}$  is not bounded on  $L^p$  for  $p \in (1; p'_0)$ .

*Proof.* Assume that  $\nabla A^{-1/2}$  is bounded on  $L^p$  for some  $p \in (1; p'_0)$ . By the boundedness on  $L^2$  and the Riesz-Thorin interpolation theorem, we get the boundedness of  $\nabla A^{-1/2}$  on  $L^q$  for all  $q \in [p; 2]$ . Now we apply the Sobolev inequality

$$\|f\|_{q^*} \leq C\|\nabla f\|_q \quad (22)$$

where  $q^* = \frac{Nq}{N-q}$  if  $q < N$  to  $f := A^{-1/2}u$ , so we get

$$\|A^{-1/2}u\|_{q^*} \leq C\|\nabla A^{-1/2}u\|_q \leq C\|u\|_q$$

for all  $q \in [p; 2]$ . In particular,  $\|A^{-1/2}\|_{q_1-q_1^*} \leq C$  where  $p \leq q_1 < p'_0$  such that  $q_1^* > p'_0$ .

Decomposing the semigroup as follows

$$e^{-tA} = A^{1/2}e^{-tA/2}e^{-tA/2}A^{-1/2} \quad (23)$$

where  $A^{-1/2}$  is  $L^{q_1} - L^{q_1^*}$  bounded,  $e^{-tA/2}$  has  $L^{q_1^*} - L^2$  norm bounded by  $Ct^{-\gamma_{q_1^*}}$  (Proposition 2.2) and  $A^{1/2}e^{-tA/2}$  is  $L^2 - L^2$  bounded by  $Ct^{-1/2}$  because of the analyticity of the semigroup on  $L^2$ . Therefore, we obtain

$$\|e^{-tA}\|_{q_1-2} \leq Ct^{-\gamma_{q_1^*}-1/2} = Ct^{-\gamma_{q_1}}.$$

We now interpolate this norm with the  $L^2 - L^2$  off-diagonal estimate of the norm of  $e^{-tA}$ , as we did in the proof of Theorem 2.1, so we get a  $L^r - L^2$  off-diagonal estimate for all  $r \in (q_1; 2)$ . Then Lemma 3.3 of [1] yields that  $(e^{-tA})_{t>0}$  is bounded on  $L^r$  for all  $r \in (q_1; 2)$  for  $q_1 \in [p; p'_0)$  such that  $q_1^* > p'_0$ .  $\square$   $\square$

**Proposition 3.3.** *Set  $V$  strongly subcritical and  $N \geq 3$ . Assume that  $\nabla A^{-1/2}$  is bounded on  $L^p$  for some  $p \in (p_{0*}; \infty)$ . Then there exists an exponent  $q_2 > p_{0*}$  such that the semigroup  $(e^{-tA})_{t>0}$  is bounded on  $L^s$  for all  $s \in (2; q_2^*)$ . Here  $q_2^* > p_0$ .*

Consider now  $V = c|x|^{-2}$  where  $0 < c < (\frac{N-2}{2})^2$ . It is proved in [23] that the semigroup does not act on  $L^p$  for  $p \notin (p'_0; p_0)$ . Therefore we obtain from this proposition that the Riesz transforms  $\nabla A^{-1/2}$  are not bounded on  $L^p$  for  $p \in (p_{0*}; \infty)$ .

*Proof.* Assume that  $\nabla A^{-1/2}$  is bounded on  $L^p$  for some  $p \in (p_{0*}; \infty)$ . Then by interpolation we obtain the boundedness of  $\nabla A^{-1/2}$  on  $L^q$  for all  $q \in [2; p]$ . In particular,

$$\|\nabla A^{-1/2}\|_{q_2-q_2} \leq C$$

where  $p_{0*} < q_2 < p_0$ ,  $q_2 \leq p$ ,  $q_2 < N$ . Using the Sobolev inequality (22), we obtain that  $A^{-1/2}$  is  $L^{q_2} - L^{q_2^*}$  bounded where  $q_2^* > p_0$ .

Now we decompose the semigroup as follows

$$e^{-tA} = A^{-1/2} e^{-tA/2} A^{1/2} e^{-tA/2}. \quad (24)$$

Thus we remark that it is  $L^2 - L^{q_2^*}$  bounded where  $q_2^* > p_0$ .

Then, using similar arguments as in the previous proof, we conclude that  $(e^{-tA})_{t>0}$  is bounded on  $L^s$  for all  $s \in (2; q_2^*)$  for  $p_{0*} < q_2 < \inf(p_0, p, N)$ .  $\square$

$\square$

## 4 Boundedness of $\nabla A^{-1/2}$ and $V^{1/2}A^{-1/2}$ on $L^p$ for all $p \in (1; N)$

In this section we assume that  $V$  is strongly subcritical in the Kato subclass  $K_N^\infty, N \geq 3$ . Following Zhao [33], we define

$$K_N^\infty := \left\{ V \in K_N^{loc}; \lim_{B \uparrow \infty} \left[ \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}^N} \int_{|y| \geq B} \frac{|V(y)|}{|y-x|^{N-2}} dy \right] = 0 \right\},$$

where  $K_N^{loc}$  is the class of potentials that are locally in the Kato class  $K_N$ .

For necessary background of the Kato class see [29] and references therein.

We use results proved by stochastic methods to deduce a  $L^1 - L^\infty$  off-diagonal estimate of the norm of the semigroup which leads to the boundedness of  $\nabla A^{-1/2}$  and  $V^{1/2}A^{-1/2}$  on  $L^p$  for all  $p \in (1; N)$ .

**Theorem 4.1.** *Let  $A$  be the Schrödinger operator  $-\Delta - V, V \geq 0$ . Assume that  $V$  is strongly subcritical in the class  $K_N^\infty, (N \geq 3)$ , then  $\nabla A^{-1/2}$  and  $V^{1/2}A^{-1/2}$  are of weak type  $(1, 1)$ , they are bounded on  $L^p$  for all  $p \in (1; 2]$ . If in addition  $V \in L^{N/2}$ , then  $\nabla A^{-1/2}$  and  $V^{1/2}A^{-1/2}$  are bounded on  $L^p$  for all  $p \in (1; N)$ .*

*Proof.* We assume that  $V$  is strongly subcritical in the class  $K_N^\infty$ . Therefore  $V$  satisfies assumptions of Theorem 2 of [31] (The classes  $K_\infty$  and  $S_\infty$  mentioned in [31] are equivalent to the class  $K_N^\infty$  (see Chen [11] Theorem 2.1 and Section 3.1)). Thus the heat kernel associated to  $(e^{-tA})_{t>0}$  satisfies a Gaussian estimate. Therefore  $(e^{-tA})_{t>0}$ ,  $(\sqrt{t}\nabla e^{-tA})_{t>0}$ , and  $(\sqrt{t}V^{1/2}e^{-tA})_{t>0}$  satisfy  $L^1 - L^2$  off-diagonal estimates. Arguing now as in the proof of Theorem 3.1 (or using Theorem 5 of [28]) we conclude that  $\nabla A^{-1/2}$  and  $V^{1/2}A^{-1/2}$  are of weak type  $(1, 1)$  and they are bounded on  $L^p$  for all  $p \in (1; 2]$ .

To prove the boundedness of  $\nabla A^{-1/2}$  on  $L^p$  for higher  $p$  we use the Stein complex interpolation theorem (see [30] Section V.4).

Let us first mention that  $D := R(A) \cap L^1 \cap L^\infty$  is dense in  $L^p$  for all  $p \in (1; \infty)$  provided that  $V$  is strongly subcritical in  $K_N^\infty, N \geq 3$ . We prove the density as in [2], where in our case we have the following estimate

$$|f_k - f| \leq k(c(-\Delta) + k)^{-1} f \quad (25)$$

where  $f_k := A(A + k)^{-1}f$  and  $c$  is a positive constant. This estimate holds from the Gaussian estimate of the heat kernel associated to the semigroup  $(e^{-tA})_{t>0}$ .

Set  $F(z) := <(-\Delta)^z A^{-z} f, g>$  where  $f \in D, g \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^N)$  and  $z \in S := \{x + iy \text{ such that } x \in [0; 1] \text{ and } y \in \mathbb{R}^N\}$ .  $F(z)$  is admissible. Indeed, the function  $z \mapsto F(z)$  is continuous in  $S$  and analytic in its interior. In addition

$$|F(z)| = |< A^{-z} f, (-\Delta)^{\bar{z}} g >| \leq \|A^{-z} f\|_2 \|(-\Delta)^{\bar{z}} g\|_2. \quad (26)$$

For  $\Re e \bar{z} \in (0; 1)$ ,  $D(-\Delta) \subset D((- \Delta)^{\bar{z}})$ , so

$$\|(-\Delta)^{\bar{z}} g\|_2 \leq C\|g\|_{W^{2,2}} \quad (27)$$

for all  $z \in S$ .

When  $V$  is strongly subcritical,  $A$  is non-negative self-adjoint operator on  $L^2$ , hence  $\|A^{iy}\|_{2-2} \leq 1$  for all  $y \in \mathbb{R}$ . Therefore for all  $z = x + iy \in S$  and  $f = Au \in R(A)$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \|A^{-z} f\|_2 &\leq \|A^{-iy}\|_{2-2} \|A^{1-x} u\|_2 \\ &\leq C(\|u\|_2 + \|Au\|_2). \end{aligned} \quad (28)$$

Here we use  $D(A) \subset D(A^{1-x})$  because  $(1-x) \in (0; 1)$ .

Now we employ (27) and (28) in (26) to deduce the admissibility of  $F(z)$  in  $S$ . Thus we can apply the Stein complex interpolation theorem to  $F(z)$ .

Since  $V$  is strongly subcritical and belongs to the class  $K_N^\infty, N \geq 3$ , we obtain a Gaussian estimate of the heat kernel of  $A$ . Thus  $A$  has a  $H^\infty$ -bounded calculus on  $L^p$  for all  $p \in (1; \infty)$  (see e.g. [8] Theorem 2.2). Hence

$$|F(iy)| \leq \|A^{-iy} f\|_{p_0} \|(-\Delta)^{-iy} g\|_{p'_0} \leq C_{\gamma, p_0} e^{2\gamma|y|} \|f\|_{p_0} \|g\|_{p'_0}$$

for all  $\gamma > 0$ , all  $p_0 \in (1; \infty)$ .

Let us now estimate  $\|VA^{-1}\|_{p_1-p_1}$ . By Hölder's inequality

$$\|VA^{-1}u\|_{p_1} \leq \|V\|_{N/2} \|A^{-1}u\|_q \quad (29)$$

where  $p_1 < N$  and  $\frac{1}{p_1} = \frac{1}{q} + \frac{2}{N}$ . As mentioned above we have a Gaussian upper bound for the heat kernel. In particular

$$\|e^{-tA}\|_{1-\infty} \leq Ct^{-N/2}$$

for all  $t > 0$ . Therefore  $A^{-1}$  extends to a bounded operator from  $L^s$  to  $L^q$  such that  $s < \frac{N}{2}$  and  $\frac{1}{s} = \frac{1}{q} + \frac{2}{N}$ , and we have

$$\|A^{-1}u\|_q \leq C\|u\|_s.$$

(see Coulhon [12]). Thus  $s = p_1$ ,  $D(A) \subseteq D(V)$  and (29) implies

$$\|VA^{-1}\|_{p_1-p_1} \leq C$$

where  $C$  depends on  $\|V\|_{N/2}$ . Hence we can estimate

$$\begin{aligned} \|(-\Delta)A^{-1}u\|_{p_1} &= \|(-\Delta - V + V)A^{-1}u\|_{p_1} \\ &\leq \|u\|_{p_1} + \|VA^{-1}u\|_{p_1} \\ &\leq C\|u\|_{p_1} \end{aligned} \tag{30}$$

where  $C$  depends on  $\|V\|_{N/2}$ . We return to  $F(z)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} |F(1+iy)| &\leq \|(-\Delta)A^{-1}A^{-iy}f\|_{p_1}\|(-\Delta)^{-iy}g\|_{p'_1} \\ &\leq \|(-\Delta)A^{-1}\|_{p_1-p_1}\|A^{-iy}f\|_{p_1}\|(-\Delta)^{-iy}g\|_{p'_1} \\ &\leq C_{\gamma,p_1,\|V\|_{N/2}}e^{2\gamma|y|}\|f\|_{p_1}\|g\|_{p'_1} \end{aligned}$$

for all  $p_1 \in (1; N/2)$  and all  $\gamma > 0$ .

From the Stein interpolation theorem it follows that for all  $t \in [0; 1]$  there exists a constant  $M_t$  such that

$$|F(t)| \leq M_t\|f\|_{p_t}\|g\|_{p'_t}$$

where  $\frac{1}{p_t} = \frac{1-t}{p_0} + \frac{t}{p_1}$ . Setting  $t = \frac{1}{2}$  and using a density argument we conclude that  $\nabla A^{-1/2}$  is bounded on  $L^p$  for all  $p \in (1; N)$ .

To prove boundedness of  $V^{1/2}A^{-1/2}$  on  $L^p$  we use the following decomposition

$$V^{1/2}A^{-1/2} = V^{1/2}(-\Delta)^{-1/2}(-\Delta)^{1/2}A^{-1/2}.$$

Assuming  $V \in L^{N/2}$  we have by Hölder's inequality

$$\|V^{1/2}u\|_p \leq \|V^{1/2}\|_N\|u\|_q$$

where  $p < N$  and  $\frac{1}{p} - \frac{1}{q} = \frac{1}{N}$ . Then by Sobolev inequality and the boundedness of Riesz transforms associated to the Laplace operator we obtain

$$\|V^{1/2}u\|_p \leq C_{p,N,\|V\|_{N/2}} \|\nabla u\|_p \leq C_{p,N,\|V\|_{N/2}} \|(-\Delta)^{1/2}u\|_p \quad (31)$$

for all  $p \in (1; N)$ . Thus if  $V \in L^{N/2}$  we have for all  $p \in (1; N)$

$$\|V^{1/2}(-\Delta)^{-1/2}\|_{p-p} \leq C.$$

Using the boundedness of Riesz transforms associated to the Schrödinger operator  $A$  we have

$$\|(-\Delta)^{1/2}A^{-1/2}u\|_p \leq C\|u\|_p$$

for all  $p \in (1; N)$ .

Therefore  $V^{1/2}A^{-1/2}$  is bounded on  $L^p$  for all  $p \in (1; N)$  provided that  $V$  is strongly subcritical in the class  $K_N^\infty \cap L^{N/2}, N \geq 3$ .  $\square$   $\square$

**Example:** Set  $N \geq 3$ , and let us take potentials  $V$  in the Kato subclass  $K_N \cap L^{N/2}$  such that  $V \sim c|x|^{-\alpha}$  when  $x$  tends to infinity, where  $\alpha > 2$ . Suppose that  $\|V\|_{\frac{N}{2}}$  is small enough. Let us prove that these potentials are strongly subcritical, so we should prove that

$$\|V^{1/2}u\|_2^2 \leq C\|\nabla u\|_2^2$$

where  $C < 1$ . This is (31) where  $p = 2$ , and  $C < 1$  for  $\|V\|_{\frac{N}{2}}$  is small enough. Hence these potentials are strongly subcritical. Z.Zhao [33] proved that they are in the subclass  $K_N^\infty$ . Hence they satisfy the assumptions of Theorem 4.1. Then  $\nabla(-\Delta - V)^{-1/2}$  and  $V^{1/2}(-\Delta - V)^{-1/2}$  are bounded on  $L^p$  for all  $p \in (1; N)$ .

**Remarks:** 1) The proof of the previous theorem shows that

$$\|Vu\|_{p_1} \leq C\|Au\|_{p_1}$$

and

$$\|\Delta u\|_{p_1} \leq C\|Au\|_{p_1}$$

for all  $p_1 \in (1; N/2)$ .

2) If we consider  $H = -\Delta + V$  a Schrödinger operator with non-negative potential  $V \in L^{N/2}$ , we obtain by the previous arguments the  $L^{p_1}$ -boundedness of  $VH^{-1}$  and  $\Delta H^{-1}$  for all  $p_1 \in (1; N/2)$ , and the  $L^p$ -boundedness of  $V^{1/2}H^{-1/2}$  and  $\nabla H^{-1/2}$  for all  $p \in (1; N)$ .

## 5 Schrödinger operators on Riemannian manifolds

Let  $M$  be a non-compact complete Riemannian manifold of dimension  $N \geq 3$ . Denote by  $d\mu$  the Riemannian measure,  $\rho$  the geodesic distance on  $M$  and  $\nabla$  the Riemannian gradient. Denote by  $|.|$  the length in the tangent space, and by  $\|.\|_p$  the norm in  $L^p(M, d\mu)$ . Let  $-\Delta$  be the positive self-adjoint Laplace-Beltrami operator on  $M$ . Take  $V$  a strongly subcritical positive potential on  $M$ , which means that there exists an  $\varepsilon > 0$  such that

$$\int_M V u^2 d\mu \leq \frac{1}{1+\varepsilon} \int_M |\nabla u|^2 d\mu. \quad (32)$$

and set  $A := -\Delta - V$  the associated Schrödinger operator on  $M$ . By the sesquilinear form method  $A$  is well defined, non-negative, and  $-A$  generates a bounded analytic semigroup  $(e^{-tA})_{t>0}$  on  $L^2(M)$ .

As in  $\mathbb{R}^N$ , we have the  $L^2(M)$ -boundedness of  $V^{1/2} A^{-1/2}$  and of the Riesz transforms  $\nabla A^{-1/2}$  if and only if  $V$  is strongly subcritical.

We remark that methods used in [23] hold in manifolds. The semigroup  $(e^{-tA})_{t>0}$  can be extrapolated to  $L^p(M)$ , and it is uniformly bounded for  $p \in \left( \left( \frac{2}{1-\sqrt{1-\frac{1}{1+\varepsilon}}} \right)'; \left( \frac{2}{1-\sqrt{1-\frac{1}{1+\varepsilon}}} \right) \right)$ . If in addition the Sobolev inequality

$$\|f\|_{L^{\frac{2N}{N-2}}(M)} \leq C \|\nabla f\|_{L^2(M)} \quad (33)$$

for all  $f \in C_0^\infty(M)$  holds on  $M$ , then we obtain for all  $t > 0$

$$\|e^{-tA}\|_{L^p(M)-L^{\frac{pN}{N-2}}(M)} \leq Ct^{-1/p}$$

for all  $p \in \left( \left( \frac{2}{1-\sqrt{1-\frac{1}{1+\varepsilon}}} \right)'; \left( \frac{2}{1-\sqrt{1-\frac{1}{1+\varepsilon}}} \right) \right)$ . Using the  $L^2(M) - L^2(M)$  off-diagonal estimate we obtain as in [23] the fact that  $(e^{-tA})_{t>0}$  is bounded on  $L^p(M)$  for all  $p \in (p'_0; p_0)$  where  $p_0 := \frac{2N}{N-2} \frac{1}{1-\sqrt{1-\frac{1}{1+\varepsilon}}}$ .

For classes of manifolds satisfying (33) see [26]. Note that (33) is equivalent to the following Gaussian upper bound of the heat kernel  $p(t, x, y)$  of the Laplace-Beltrami operator (see [32] and [14])

$$p(t, x, y) \leq Ct^{-N/2} e^{-c\rho^2(x,y)/t} \quad \forall x, y \in M, t > 0. \quad (34)$$

We say that  $M$  is of homogeneous type if for all  $x \in M$  and  $r > 0$

$$\mu(B(x, 2r)) \leq C\mu(B(x, r)) \quad (35)$$

where  $B(x, r) := \{y \in M \text{ such that } \rho(x, y) \leq r\}$ .

We say that the  $L^2$ -Poincaré inequalities hold on  $M$  if there exists a positive constant  $C$  such that

$$\int_{B(x,r)} |f(y) - f_r(x)|^2 d\mu(y) \leq Cr^2 \int_{B(x,r)} |\nabla f(y)|^2 d\mu(y) \quad (36)$$

for all  $f \in C_0^\infty(M)$ ,  $x \in M$ ,  $r > 0$ , where  $f_r(x) := \frac{1}{\mu(B(x,r))} \int_{B(x,r)} f(y) d\mu(y)$ .

Saloff-Coste [25] proved that (35) and (36) hold if and only if the heat kernel  $p(t, x, y)$  satisfies the following Li-Yau estimate

$$\frac{Ce^{-c\rho^2(x,y)/t}}{\mu(B(x, \sqrt{t}))} \leq p(t, x, y) \leq \frac{C_1 e^{-c_1 \rho^2(x,y)/t}}{\mu(B(x, \sqrt{t}))}. \quad (37)$$

Arguing as in the Euclidean case we obtain the following theorem

**Theorem 5.1.** *Let  $M$  be a non-compact complete Riemannian manifold of dimension  $N \geq 3$ . Assume (32) and (33). Then  $(e^{-tA})_{t>0}$ ,  $(\sqrt{t}\nabla e^{-tA})_{t>0}$  and  $(\sqrt{t}V^{1/2}e^{-tA})_{t>0}$  satisfy  $L^p(M) - L^2(M)$  off-diagonal estimates for all  $p \in (p'_0; 2]$ . Here  $p'_0$  is the dual exponent of  $p_0$  where  $p_0 = \frac{2N}{(N-2)(1-\sqrt{1-\frac{1}{1+\varepsilon}})}$ .*

*Then we have for all  $t > 0$ , all  $p \in (p'_0; 2]$ , all closed sets  $E$  and  $F$  of  $M$ , and all  $f \in L^2(M) \cap L^p(M)$  with  $\text{supp}f \subseteq E$*

$$i) \|e^{-tA}f\|_{L^2(F)} \leq Ct^{-\gamma_p} e^{-\frac{c\rho^2(E,F)}{t}} \|f\|_p,$$

$$ii) \|\sqrt{t}\nabla e^{-tA}f\|_{L^2(F)} \leq Ct^{-\gamma_p} e^{-\frac{c\rho^2(E,F)}{t}} \|f\|_p,$$

$$iii) \|\sqrt{t}V^{1/2}e^{-tA}f\|_{L^2(F)} \leq Ct^{-\gamma_p} e^{-\frac{c\rho^2(E,F)}{t}} \|f\|_p,$$

where  $\gamma_p = \frac{N}{2}(\frac{1}{p} - \frac{1}{2})$  and  $C, c$  are positive constants.

We invest these off-diagonal estimates as in the proof of Theorem 3.1 to obtain the following result

**Theorem 5.2.** *Let  $M$  be a non-compact complete Riemannian manifold of dimension  $N \geq 3$ . Assume (32), (33) and (35). Then  $V^{1/2}A^{-1/2}$  and  $\nabla A^{-1/2}$  are bounded on  $L^p(M)$  for all  $p \in (p'_0; 2]$  where  $p'_0 = \left(\frac{2N}{(N-2)(1-\sqrt{1-\frac{1}{1+\varepsilon}})}\right)'$ .*

We say that the potential  $V$  is in the class  $K_\infty(M)$ , if for any  $\varepsilon > 0$  there exists a compact set  $K \subset M$  and  $\delta > 0$  such that

$$\sup_{x \in M} \int_{K^c} G(x, y) |V(y)| d\mu(y) \leq \varepsilon$$

where  $K^c := M \setminus K$ , and for all measurable sets  $B \subset K$  with  $\mu(b) < \delta$ ,

$$\sup_{x \in M} \int_B G(x, y) |V(y)| d\mu(y) \leq \varepsilon.$$

Here  $G(x, y) := \int_0^\infty p(t, x, y) dt$  is the Green function, and  $p(t, x, y)$  is the heat kernel of the Laplace-Beltrami operator. This class is the generalization of  $K_N^\infty$  to manifolds (see [11] Section 2).

Since (35) and (36) imply the Li-Yau estimate (37), we can use Theorem 2 of [31] and obtain a Gaussian upper bound of the heat kernel of  $-\Delta - V$ . Thus arguing as in the Euclidean case, we obtain the following result

**Theorem 5.3.** *Let  $M$  be a non-compact complete Riemannian manifold of dimension  $N \geq 3$ , and let  $A$  be the Schrödinger operator  $-\Delta - V$ ,  $0 \leq V \in L^{N/2}(M) \cap K_\infty$ . Assume that for all ball  $B$ ,  $\mu(B(x, r)) \geq Cr^N$ . Assume (32), (35) and (36). Then  $\Delta(-\Delta - V)^{-1}$  and  $V(-\Delta - V)^{-1}$  are bounded on  $L^p(M)$  for all  $p \in (1; N/2)$ .*

Now using Theorem 2 of [31] and Theorem 5 of [28], then arguing as in the Euclidean case we obtain the following

**Theorem 5.4.** *Let  $M$  be a non-compact complete Riemannian manifold of dimension  $N \geq 3$ , and let  $A$  be the Schrödinger operator  $-\Delta - V$ ,  $0 \leq V \in K_\infty$ . Assume (32), (35) and (36). Then  $\nabla A^{-1/2}$  and  $V^{1/2} A^{-1/2}$  are of weak type  $(1, 1)$ , thus they are bounded on  $L^p(M)$  for all  $p \in (1; 2]$ .*

*If in addition we assume that for all ball  $B$ ,  $\mu(B(x, r)) \geq Cr^N$ , and for some  $r \in (2; N]$ , the Riesz transforms  $\nabla(-\Delta)^{-1/2}$  are bounded on  $L^r(M)$  then  $\nabla A^{-1/2}$  and  $V^{1/2} A^{-1/2}$  are bounded on  $L^p(M)$  for all  $p \in (1; r)$  provided that  $V \in L^{N/2}(M)$ .*

*Remark* Let  $M$  be a non-compact complete Riemannian manifold of dimension  $N \geq 3$ . Let  $H = -\Delta + V$  be a Schrödinger operator with non-negative potential  $V \in L^{N/2}(M)$ . Assume that for some  $r \in (2; N]$ , the Riesz transforms  $\nabla(-\Delta)^{-1/2}$  are bounded on  $L^p(M)$  for all  $p \in (2; r)$  or for  $p = r$ . Assume also (33). Then the heat kernel associated to  $H$  satisfies (34). Hence we obtain by the previous argument the  $L^p$ -boundedness of  $V^{1/2} H^{-1/2}$  and  $\nabla H^{-1/2}$  for all  $p \in (1; r)$ .

Note that (35) and (36) hold on manifolds with non-negative Ricci curvature (see [22]) as well as the boundedness on  $L^p(M)$  for all  $p \in (1, \infty)$  of Riesz transforms associated to the Laplace-Beltrami operator (see [6]). The

Sobolev inequality (33) is valid on manifolds with Ricci curvature bounded from below satisfying

$$\inf_{x \in M} \mu(B(x, 1)) > 0$$

(see [19] Theorem 3.14). Therefore manifolds with non-negative Ricci curvature satisfying  $\inf_{x \in M} \mu(B(x, 1)) > 0$  are a class of manifolds where Theorem 5.4 holds.

We mention that Carron, Coulhon and Hassell [10] proved that the Riesz transforms  $\nabla(-\Delta)^{-1/2}$  are bounded on  $L^p(M)$  for all  $p \in (2; N)$  on smooth complete Riemannian manifolds of dimension  $N \geq 3$  which are the union of a compact part and a finite number of Euclidean ends. Ji, Kunstmann and Weber [20] proved that this boundedness holds for all  $p \in (1; \infty)$ , on the complete connected Riemannian manifolds whose Ricci curvature is bounded from below, if there is a constant  $a > 0$  with  $\sigma(-\Delta) \subset \{0\} \cup [a; \infty)$ . They also give examples of manifolds that satisfy their conditions. Auscher, Coulhon, Duong and Hofmann [3] proved that on complete non-compact Riemannian manifolds satisfying assumption (37), the uniform boundedness of  $(\sqrt{t}\nabla e^{-t(-\Delta)})_{t>0}$  on  $L^q$  for some  $q \in (2; \infty]$  implies the boundedness on  $L^p(M)$  of  $\nabla(-\Delta)^{-1/2}$  for all  $p \in (2; q)$ . And we have equivalence if  $(\sqrt{t}\nabla e^{-t(-\Delta)})_{t>0}$  is uniformly bounded on  $L^r$  for all  $r \in (2; q)$ .

Therefore we deduce the following propositions using our previous theorem and the criterion of [3]. We also use the fact that the semigroup  $(e^{-t(-\Delta-V)})_{t>0}$  is bounded analytic on  $L^p(M)$  for all  $p \in (1; \infty)$ . This is true on manifolds where assumptions (35) and (36) hold and when  $V \in K_\infty$  satisfying (32) (see e.g. [7] Theorem 1.1).

**Proposition 5.1.** *Let  $M$  be a non-compact complete Riemannian manifold of dimension  $N \geq 3$ . Assume that for all ball  $B$   $\mu(B(x, r)) \geq Cr^N$ , assume (32), (35) and (36), and assume that  $V \in K_\infty \cap L^{N/2}(M)$ . If for some  $r \in (2; N]$*

$$\|\nabla e^{-t(-\Delta)}\|_{L^r(M)-L^r(M)} \leq C/\sqrt{t}$$

for all  $t > 0$ , then

$$\|\nabla e^{-t(-\Delta-V)}\|_{L^p(M)-L^p(M)} \leq C/\sqrt{t}$$

for all  $t > 0$ , all  $p \in (1, r)$ .

**Proposition 5.2.** *Let  $M$  be a non-compact complete Riemannian manifold of dimension  $N \geq 3$ . Assume (33) and assume that  $V \in L^{N/2}(M)$ . If for some  $r \in (2; N]$*

$$\|\nabla e^{-t(-\Delta)}\|_{L^r(M)-L^r(M)} \leq C/\sqrt{t}$$

for all  $t > 0$ , then

$$\|\nabla e^{-t(-\Delta+V)}\|_{L^p(M)-L^p(M)} \leq C/\sqrt{t}$$

for all  $t > 0$ , all  $p \in (1, r)$ .

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